

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /063 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:GADIES:BA

APPROVED BY AF/W-THOMAS W.M. SMITH

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O R 120014Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR BOYA

REF: STATE 30983

1. DEPT (AF/W DIRECTOR) CALLED IN AMBASSADOR BOYA
FEBRUARY 11 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF US-BENIN RELATIONS.
AFTER INITIAL PLEASANTRIES (DURING WHICH BOYA ADMITTED
LEAVING ALMOST ALL WORK AT UN TO HIS DEPUTY THERE,
WE BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF ANGOLA, AND RESTATED POSITION
PARA TWO AND THREE REFTEL.

2. BOYA THEN ASKED IF HE COULD RAISE POINT WHICH WAS
WORRYING HIS GOVERNMENT. DURING MEETING JAN. 15 WITH
AF AMBASSADORS (WHICH BOYA ATTENDED), SECRETARY
KISSINGER HAD STATED THAT THERE WAS NO LIST OF COUNTRIES
AGAINST WHOM SANCTIONS WERE BEING TAKEN DUE TO THEIR VOTES
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IN UNGA. BOYA SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED HIM TO

VERIFY IF THIS WAS INDEED THE CASE, AS SEVERAL NEWS REPORTS IN US ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF SUCH A LIST. IN ADDITION, BOYA SAID PRB HAD REQUESTED HIM TO CHECK IF BENIN WAS A TARGET OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. BOYA SAID HE HAD RESPONDED THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY ON THAT SUBJECT.

3. WE REPLIED BY SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO LIST OF UN-FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, THAT USG POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED, AND THAT USG STILL REVIEWED ALL ACTIONS TAKEN BY A COUNTRY VIS-A-VIS THE US IN FORMULATING ITS POLICY. WE

NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN GREAT AMOUNT OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST THIS YEAR IN SEVERAL VOTES BEFORE THE UNGA, AND THAT THIS INTEREST MIGHT EVENTUALLY SPARK SOME REVIEW OF US ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH CONSISTENTLY DIFFERED WITH US ON MAJOR ISSUES.

4. BOYA THEN MENTIONED THAT SANDERS AND THOMAS HAD INFORMED BENIN EMBASSY IT HAD RECEIVED ORDER TO SUSPEND WORK ON COTONOU BRIDGE-DAM PROJECT. DEPT. SAID THAT THIS WAS ENTIRELY SEPARATE MATTER, THAT INACTION ON PART OF PRB ON COMPENSATION CLAIMS TO US FIRMS (TEXACO AND MOBIL) HAD LED TO A REVIEW OF AID TO BENIN IN VIEW OF HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT. WE EXPLAINED AMENDMENT AT SOME LENGTH. BOYA CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS COINCIDENCE THAT THIS REVIEW (AND SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITY) ON BRIDGE-DAM PROJECT OCCURRED AT SAME TIME THAT PRESS WAS ALLEGING USG SANCTIONS AGAINST COUNTRIES FOR UNGA VOTES. WE AGREED.

5. BOYA SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THIS POINT, AND PROMISED TO REPORT CONVERSATION TO PRB. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD PROGRESS ON BRIDGE-DAM WAS LINKED TO SOME SIGN OF SATISFACTORY PROGRESS ON COMPENSATION QUESTION, AND STATED THAT DELAY TO DATE WAS DUE TO INTERNAL EX-IGENCIES OF PRB. IN ADDITION, BOYA SAID THAT ONCE LEGAL QUESTION IS RESOLVED, HE HOPED USG WOULD BE ABLE RESOLVE PROBLEM OF FUNDS SHORTFALL FOR PROJECT, SINCE HE AND THE BENINESE PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A CONCRETE

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EXAMPLE OF US AID IN THE FORM OF THE BADLY NEEDED BRIDGE.

6. COMMENT: BOYA WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, ASKED QUESTIONS AND TOOK NOTES ON SAILIENT POINTS. IN NO WAY HAS HE TO DATE DEMONSTRATED ANY OF STRIDENT MARXIST RHETORIC OR ATTITUDE THAT WE EXPECTED IN HIM PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL--IN FACT, THUSFAR HE SEEMS TO BE FAR SUPERIOR TO HIS PREDECESSOR IN SERVING THE

INTERESTS OF THE PRB.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE034123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GADIES:BA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-0839
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760255/aaaabvrc.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 30983
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR BOYA
TAGS: PFOR, DM, US, (BOYA, SETONDJI THOMAS)
To: COTONOU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006